

GOP Starts Rolling—Oil, Realty, Financial Interests Paid Off First

President Eisenhower's "Great Crusade" got moving last week. Even before big business representatives appointed to key posts in the administration had become accustomed to their bureaucratic rights, they began to turn the crusade into a giveaway.

As a beginning, the administration which made no bones of the fact that it is devoted to the welfare of major financial and industrial groups, took three steps: in monetary policy, in oil, and in realty.

As the first payoff to the important financial groups which had given heavy support to the Eisenhower campaign, the Treasury Department announced that, under a refinancing plan, interest rates on short-term bonds would be raised from 1 7/8 to 2 1/2 per cent. This means an increase of some \$40 to \$50 million a year in government interest payments, to banks, insurance companies and other large investors who hold these bonds.

The major giveaway, to which Eisenhower and his administration made numerous pre-election pledges, is the decision to ease the way toward giving California, Texas, and Louisiana title to the offshore oil lands, and overriding Senator Lister Hill's bill calling for the distribution of income from offshore oil for educational purposes throughout the nation.

In attacking the Eisenhower proposals, O. A. Knight, president of the CIO Oil Workers said:

"The use of income from these lands for education would, I am sure, quiet the fears of many that we went through this business 30 years ago.

"The eager support the oil interests have given the claims of the states in this case, behind the scenes, inevitably reminds people of some aspects of the Teapot Dome scandal.

"It is making them wonder if the same type of interest that debauched our government, to the extent that a few mink coats and deep freezes seem picayune, is now trying to accomplish the same end in a somewhat more legal manner.

"I ask you, could anything serve better to allay these fears than retaining the submerged oil lands under federal supervision and devoting all or a major part of the revenue to strengthening education?"

In support of his bill, Senator Hill noted:

In Alabama, 200,000 pupils are in inadequate school buildings and 129,000 have poorly trained teachers.

South Dakota public schools today employ 1,000 teachers with less than one year of college training.

In Michigan there are 5,500 teachers who have not met the minimum requirements.

In New Jersey, 900 classes are on double session and 750 classes are using makeshift classrooms.

In North Carolina, 43,000 pupils went to school last year in hallways, basements, auditoriums and other makeshift quarters.

In St. Louis, Mo., 92 per cent of the male teachers support themselves and their families by outside work after-school or their wives work. A majority believe that this makes them less effective as teachers.

The third move indicating that President Eisenhower's pledge to "preserve" existing social gains was mere persiflage, was the appointment of Albert M. Cole, former Republican member of the House from Kansas, to head the Housing and Home Finance Agency, which administers the low-rent public housing and slum-clearance programs and other Federal housing activities.

Cole registered an almost 100 per cent reactionary record during his eight years in Congress. He always supported everything the greedy Real Estate Lobby desired. Last November he was beaten for re-election by Howard S. Miller, a farmer and Democrat.

Cole voted against the entire long-range housing program in 1949, against the public housing for low-income families; against Federal aid to middle-income "co-ops" in 1951; against rent controls in 1951



and 1952. On the other hand, he voted for all schemes of the Real Estate Lobby to cripple public housing in 1951 and 1952.

As head of the Housing Agency, Cole will be called upon to make decisions and recommendations to the President and Congress which could wipe out decent low-rent housing for poor people, slum clearance and other similar measures.

Cole was against the entire housing program in 1949. In a bitter speech on the floor of the House Cole said all the main features were "socialistic and might strangle the American people."

By contrast, Cole wholeheartedly approved guaranteeing the profits of the realtors and builders through the F.H.A.

The St. Louis "Post-Dispatch," which is published almost next door to Cole's home state, ran an editorial denouncing his appointment under the heading, "Delivered to the Enemy."

"If the President had conducted a search for the appointee most likely to kill the 1949 Housing Act by administrative strangulation, he could hardly have come up with a better choice than Albert M. Cole," the editorial declared.

After citing his "record" in Congress, the paper emphasized, "If any Congressman has compiled a more conclusive record of service to the Real Estate Lobby we do not know who it is."

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (Dem., Minn.) urged the President to withdraw the appointment, charging that installation of Cole in the housing post was "like putting the fox in charge of the hen-house."

Incidentally, Cole is a close friend of C. Wesley Roberts of Kansas, chairman of the Republican National Committee, and was boomed for the housing job by Senator Frank Carlson (Rep., Kan.).

While engaged in this big time giveaway, the Republicans were not overlooking small change either. It was recently revealed that Vice-President Nixon, in addition to his famous \$18,000 fund, had received backing deriving from a second \$25,000 fund, compiled by California business men. In addition, Wesley Roberts, chairman of the Republican National Committee, was charged with having engineered the sale of a building site to the Kansas legislature, for which the state had no use. Roberts' fee for this operation was the usual 10 per cent—in this case, \$11,000. This revelation was substantiated by an unimpeachable source, Alfred M. Landon, 1936 Republican candidate for president.

Thus, the Eisenhower administration has finally gotten off the ground—and is determined to give as much of it away to private interests as quickly as they will grab it.

Will Stalinism Survive Without Stalin?

By ROBERT DELL

(Robert Dell is an expert on international affairs, and a student of developments in the USSR.)

Immediately after Stalin's death, Malenkov, Beria and Molotov, his three top henchmen, began their redistribution of the central powers of the Soviet state. The promptness of their action indicates that they followed the lines of a testament bequeathed by the genius of oppression and fraud himself.

No more pertinent comment on Stalin's life-work is possible than the fact that his successors are Malenkov, master of backroom intrigues, Beria, the super-hangman, and Molotov, the "best file clerk in the Soviet Union." In almost thirty years of absolute rule, Stalin was unable to educate and select better men than these three monsters of mediocrity.

Stalin, of course, was aware that none of his assistants could replace him. At the 19th Party Congress in October, he began a reorganization of the top of the totalitarian power pyramid, aiming at the creation of a collective leadership. The Politburo was replaced by a large Presidium, the general-secretaryship was eliminated, and party, army and police powers were made more independent of each other.

The operation was obviously to be crowned by a final fusion of party and state power. Stalin hoped to achieve this aim in his lifetime, but a brain hemorrhage prevented it. Stalin's attempt to lay a foundation for a continuation of his own power after his death has failed.

CHANGED RELATIONSHIP

The key to an understanding of the new totalitarian set-up in the Soviet Union is the fact that, with the passing of Stalin, the relationship among

the major organs of Soviet power has radically changed. Stalin was the law, as well as President, Congress and Supreme Court incorporated in one person. The Politburo, the Orgburo, the secret police—a state within the Soviet state—and the army followed Stalin's orders and his orders only.

Overnight, each of them has obtained tremendously increased power and responsibility, coupled inevitably with hostility toward competitive power groups. Of course, on the bureaucratic surface the transition went smoothly and without struggle. A new centralization took place at the top, recreating, in effect, the old Politburo and Orgburo, with Malenkov as the "first among equals" in the former, and with full control in the latter.

In the Soviet government Malenkov assumed Stalin's job, and immediately increased his personal power by creating two economic superministries with his own underlings in charge. However, despite these measures, and similar ones which are bound to follow, nothing is solved. In the short run they guarantee the continuation of the totalitarian, bureaucratic dictatorship which is not in jeopardy anyway. The Institution Stalin cannot be replaced.

It can be assumed that even Malenkov understands that. But whether he wants to or not, he will have no choice but to replace the present "troika" and the collective leadership by a purely personal leadership. The Stalinist Soviet Union cannot be ruled otherwise. Malenkov's personal leadership presupposes the physical elimination of the old Stalinists who are still in the majority in the new Presidium of the C.C.I., and the elimination of the Soviet marshals, the architects of victory in World War II.

However, over-optimism would be inappropriate.

The first stage of Malenkov's personal dictatorship will probably consist of his ganging up, in collaboration with Beria, against all others. The idea is obviously to prevent the rise of an anti-Malenkov-Beria faction in the lower ranks of the administration. One can be sure that Malenkov has learned from his master the art of first isolating victims and then eliminating them.

The acceptance of Marshal Zhukov as a vice-minister of war is an obvious attempt to bring the most popular Marshal under the factional discipline of Malenkov-Beria in order to split the army command and to nip a potential army rebellion in the bud. The outcome of this maneuver will decide whether or not a Malenkov personal dictatorship is possible.

It seems highly improbable that Malenkov, or another contender for total power, will attempt to use war to achieve that end. An army purge shortly before a third world war would unavoidably bring disaster. On the other hand, it is clear that the firm control of the army by the dictator is one of the first premises for his final success. It can be guessed that Malenkov is prepared to make all sorts of concessions in the international field in order to win the time necessary for his ascendancy to total power.

The Soviet Union and its Empire is on the threshold of its most dangerous internal crisis since the Nazi invasion of 1941. It may take years before we will be able to tell whether this crisis will lead to the disintegration of Soviet power or to consolidation. The big question mark is, of course, whether the Soviet people, silent for more than a quarter of a century, will enter the fight to decide the fate of Russia. Only if this is the case can we envisage a brighter day for Russia and the world.

The SP And CCF As Prison Reformers

By STEPHEN SITEMAN

(This survey of socialists and prison reform is devoted to the North American scene.)

Over the years, the socialist contribution to the reform of criminal law and penal conditions has been sporadic and generally part of the reforms supported by other political groups or by those who, like the Quakers, were non-political. Although most progress has been made in England and Sweden, countries with strong socialist movements, other factors have been equally influential.

In the United States, despite a lack of outside interest, considerable progress has been made, at least in the federal prisons. The recent wave of riots and outbreaks of violence have bared the horrible conditions in our state prisons.

Socialist Party platforms have not, for the most part, taken particular notice of criminal law or prison reform. They have always kept a sharp eye on legislation affecting labor unions, civil liberties, etc.

The great exception to this lethargy was Eugene Debs, who wrote his only full length book, "Walls and Bars," after his imprisonment in Atlanta.

Debs explains that "it was not until I was a prisoner myself that I realized, and fully comprehended, the prison problem and the responsibility that, in the last analysis, falls directly upon society itself."

He went on to give a socialist explanation, the kind which is expounded at length in publications like the Socialist Congressional Campaign Book: "The prison problem is directly correlated with poverty, and poverty as we see it today is essentially a social disease. It is a cancerous growth in a vulnerable spot of the social system,

There should be no poverty among hard-working people."

Debs' final attitude towards prisons was perhaps the following passage:

"Socialism and prison are antagonistic terms. Socialism means freedom and when the people are free they will not be under the necessity of committing crime and going to prison. Such exceptional cases as there may be requiring restraint for the protection of society will be cared for in institutions and under conditions betokening a civilization worthy of the name."

"Socialism will abolish the prison by removing its cause and putting an end to the vicious conditions which make such a hideous thing as the prison a necessity in the community life."

In more recent years, socialists have been active in the American League to Abolish Capital Punishment, and in the years during and since World War II, the conscientious objectors (which included many socialists) who had been sentenced to prison raised an uproar about conditions in the federal prisons, mainly the censorship of mail and the segregation of white and Negro inmates. The reforms were small and of short duration, lasting

only until the bulk of the CO's had been cleared out.

The socialist movement in Canada, in the shape of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, is perhaps the most vigorous one in the western hemisphere, having been the provincial government in Saskatchewan since 1945.

The history of socialist prison reform in Canada has been the outstanding contribution of Agnes Macphail and J. S. Woodsworth.

Miss Macphail entered the Canadian Parliament in 1921 as a member of the United Farmers (one of the founding groups of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) and immediately started her crusade for prison reforms.

On March 18, 1925, Miss Macphail introduced a resolution in favor of a more adequate industrial system in penitentiaries with some remuneration for the inmates which would go toward family maintenance or to form a nest egg on release.

This measure and the support it gained, first by J. S. Woodsworth and then influential newspapers, would have died away except for the persistence of these two. John Kidman in "The Canadian Prison" states that they were, more than any other

individuals, responsible for the appointment of a Royal Commission in 1936.

THE COMMISSION REPORT

The Commission reported in 1938, making 83 recommendations, implementation of which was suspended during the war. Since the end of the war, and after Miss Macphail's election to the Ontario legislature in 1943 when she again embarked on her campaign of reform, many of the Commission's recommendations have been adopted. "The reformatories are becoming training schools and are doing much good work, even under a Conservative government," Miss Macphail has written. "The Minister, Mr. John Foote, has done well."

When the CCF was organized in 1933, it called for "the establishment of a commission composed of psychiatrists, psychologists, socially minded jurists and social workers, to deal with all matters pertaining to crime and punishment and the general administration of law, in order to humanize the law and bring it into harmony with the needs of the people."

Lately, the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement has adopted resolutions calling for the abolition of capital punishment and recommended similar action to its parent organization. The CCF, however, has always bypassed this suggestion and adopted a resolution of more general nature, or considered some other aspect of crime.

Soon after its election, the CCF government in Saskatchewan ap-

pointed a Commission to Investigate the Penal System of Saskatchewan which made a rather exhaustive survey, not only of the institutions in Saskatchewan but in the rest of Canada and the United States. The report published in 1946 formed the basis of subsequent reforms adopted in the Province.

The Report itself attracted wide attention throughout Canada, receiving favorable attention in the Canadian Bar Review which concluded by saying, "It (the provincial government) will stand indicted if it fails to act promptly and vigorously along the constructive lines drawn for it by the Commission."

Three years later, the Red Deer Advocate of Red Deer, Alberta, a neighboring province, announced the closing of a prison in Moosomin, Sask. The prison population of that institution had decreased because of an increased use of probation, individual counselling, etc., making it unnecessary to keep the jail open. The two other jails the province maintains, at Prince Albert and Regina, are now operated on Borstal principles, which is a kind of reformatory type.

In the storms of prison unrest and violence that break out in one state after another, it is encouraging to have one island of progress on the continent.

Following is an addition to our survey of the socialist contribution to European prison reform, the first sections of which ap-

(Continued on Page 7)

Big Business Eyes The Atomic Energy Program

(This analysis of the struggle over control of atomic energy is abstracted from a statement of policy adopted by the executive board of the United Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers, CIO.)

What is commonly referred to as "atomic energy" has been shown to be of such a powerful and mysterious nature that the average layman is unable to grasp its total significance or its ultimate potential.

Atomic energy is known far and wide as the greatest destructive force discovered by man. So great is its destructive power that the average citizen is inclined to feel that its use in wartime is beyond any real defense.

Terrible as is the wartime potential of atomic energy, the leaders of industry fear it as much as a peacetime source of power and energy. Financiers, manufacturers, heads of utilities, coal, oil, and gas producers, these are a few of the groups which can see their financial and industrial empires collapsing should ways and means be found in the near future to substitute atomic energy for the present conventional types of power and energy.

The average layman may be inclined to ignore the subject of atomic power and energy because of his ignorance of the complicated subject, but financiers and industrialists cannot afford to take such an indifferent attitude.

NEW WAY OF LIFE

These men actually have no more at stake in the matter than the average layman, because atomic energy may usher in a new way of life with undreamed of benefits and more time for recreation and developing the social arts and graces.

The financiers and industrialists are hard-listed businessmen who are determined that atomic energy is not going to put them out of business. The man who operated a livery stable was not able to do much to prevent the development and use of the automobile, but financiers and industrialists have the know-how to keep atomic energy from sabotaging the industrial empires they have built so aggressively.

Wise men in Government saw that atomic energy was too powerful and possessed potentials too great to let a few men or a few companies get control of it.

For that reason, the development of atomic energy was placed in the hands of a Government-controlled commission with the idea of spreading the potential benefits of atomic energy over the nation for the benefit of all the people.

A part of the long range program to get control of atomic energy has been the campaign waged against anyone and everyone who spoke out in favor of keeping atomic energy in the hands of the people, through their Government.

Many fine men have been crucified on the cruel cross of propaganda in the effort to prove that the Government is not capable of developing and controlling atomic energy, and for that reason it should be turned over to private industry to develop (and exploit).

Now that the Republicans, and their Dixiecrat buddies who once were Northern industrialists, have control of the Federal Government, we can expect the financiers and industrialists to get out the oil can and get the propaganda machine ready to roll in high gear—plus overdrive.

They will use their kept stooges in the newspaper, radio, television and magazine fields to convince the public that, under Roosevelt and Truman, the atomic energy program has been wasteful, extravagant, inefficient, poorly managed, and similar charges. Since there is bound to

be some waste, inefficiency, etc., in a program of that size, it will be easy to show "examples" of how the Government has mismanaged the atomic energy program.

It will be a sad day for the American people when atomic energy is taken out of the hands of the Government and turned over to the slick characters in finance and industry who have silver dollars where their hearts should be.

NEED FOR ALARM

For that reason, the public should be greatly alarmed over a report made to President Truman by the National Security Resources Board which shows concern over the "interest of industry" in atomic energy. "Interest of industry" means cash profits and does not take public welfare into consideration.

The Board also said "uncertainties" of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 were causing private industry to be hampered in operating commercially so as to benefit "from their atomic power research, development and production."

The law prevents the Commission from licensing civilian users of atomic energy until 90 days after a report to Congress, and the Commission can condemn any pertinent invention or patent.

These were public safeguards written into the 1946 law over the bitter opposition of the private utilities whose record of fantastic financial practices which have cost investors so heavily, their attempts to corrupt political office holders, and their failure to recognize the public interest in power, have produced one of the ugliest pictures in the economic life of the nation.

The private utilities, who fight public power so viciously, have failed to provide private power when and where it was needed at the proper time, in the right places and in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of the nation. Tennessee Valley Authority and similar projects, and our World War II experiences, have demonstrated that private utilities cannot be trusted to meet their obligations to the people. For that reason it would be suicidal to let them get control of atomic energy.

HISTORIC DECISION

Thomas L. Stokes, writing in his syndicated column on December 29, 1952, said:

"Keeping atomic energy in trust for our people was one of our historic decisions. Nor was it won without a battle in Congress, for private interests, including the utilities, had their eyes on this new source of energy then, and have been itching to get their hands into it ever since.

"You may remember how the utilities bitterly fought the nomination of David Lilienthal as first chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission because he had been identified with TVA. They did not want in charge of AEC one so alert from

long practical experience to the public interest in utilization of our power resources, and so knowing also of the ways of private utilities."

Stokes calls attention to the fact that 10 big utility companies working in pairs have, during the past year, been looking for ways for industrial firms to have a bigger role in developing and operating nuclear power plants through Government contracts.

The newspaper columnist says that in this way the projects could be operated at a profit to the private concerns, but he says the real objective is to get control of reactors and fissionable materials in larger quantities than now allowed, and to eventually get control of atomic energy, including production and distribution which, in the end, "would create a giant private monopoly because of the interlocking relationships of the major units that now exist."

A "straw in the wind" to show what can and may happen is the manner in which AEC has turned over the employment of workers to the private companies under contract to develop atomic energy. The company hires the worker, it decides whether or not he is a good "security risk" and it can employ lie detectors and a diabolical espionage system to spy on the worker. His every word and action is under suspicion in many instances. If private industry got control of atomic energy, this same system could be developed into a thought control program which would not be concerned merely with national security, but could be used as a union-busting device. This would set the stage for a fascist state with atomic energy as the vital core.

In like manner, the laxity of the AEC in regard to housing and health facilities at some atomic energy projects is an indication of what could be expected along those lines if big money and big industry got control of atomic energy.

Another practice which has been very annoying and expensive to the UGC&CWA has been that of deliberate stalling by the companies on atomic plant grievances. This has meant that such cases have gone to arbitration where the union must pay half the costs.

The irony of this situation is that our members pay their share of arbitration costs through their union dues, and they help pay the company's share through taxes, inasmuch as the Government pays the company for operating the plant.

This is "double taxation" and insult is added to injury because the worker helps pay the cost of the company's fight against the worker's best interests. Only American Big Business could figure out a steal like that and get away with it.

The UGC&CWA also is on record, along with other CIO unions, in insisting that employees of the Government must be given the full rights and privileges of collective bargaining under contracts negotiated with the Government by unions of their own choosing.

Failure to give Government workers these rights is undemocratic and no longer makes sense in view of the size and complexity of Government operations.

The UGC&CWA, however, is even more concerned over the possibility that a reactionary Congress might decide that all those workers employed in atomic or other plants operated under contract with the Government also are Government "employees."

This would mean that they could not strike, and that they would be under many other limitations in bargaining which so adversely affect those workers customarily thought of as Government employees. Such an action by Congress would be a dangerous move toward a fascist state.

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Tito's Discovery Of The Peasant

By ERNA PUSTAU

(Erna Pustau, member of the Socialist Party International Affairs Committee, has been a close student of developments in Eastern Europe.)

From Yugoslavia comes word that the Tito Government has stopped further collectivization and is abandoning most of the collective farms established after it came to power. In addition, peasant councils are to be established similar to the existing workers councils in order to give the peasants a voice in the economic and political development of the new state. This policy, if carried through, might well prove to set a new pattern for the development of socialism.

Peasants constitute seventy percent of Yugoslavia's population while the urban population amounts to only 30%. It is this proportion between the urban and the rural population with which the Tito Government has to deal. It places Yugoslavia between the highly industrialized countries of the West and the predominantly agrarian countries of the East.

It means that Yugoslavia must find a cooperating relationship between the peasants and the workers, now that collectivization, with its terror, has been abandoned. The socialist movement of the West has as yet failed to set a pattern for a socialist relationship between the peasants and the workers.

It is the East which is now groping for a solution for which the West has given no answer. In this respect, it is interesting to note the resolution dealing with the "Role of the Peasantry" presented at the Asian Socialist Conference, held in Rangoon, January 6-15, 1953.

"Another fundamental thing that Asian Socialists must realize is that they can never succeed in building socialism here without the support of the peasants who are the constituents of the socialist movement in the East, unlike the

Western movement which has relied heavily upon the industrial workers. To gain the support of the peasants we must satisfy their elemental urge for land, and in doing so, we create a new class of people, the peasant proprietors."

The resolution then suggests:

"We have to take the peasant with his holdings and make him a Socialist. In Asian countries, where there are thousands of villages, the idea should not be collectivization but villagization of land. Here, ownership is transferred to the village, a concrete entity which the peasant can understand and of which he is an integral part."

NO NEW CLASS

The Tito Government does not have to create a new class of people. The peasant proprietors exist and the problem is how to make them Socialists. Representatives of the Tito Government attended the Rangoon meeting. Was it incidental that the new policy was announced shortly thereafter, or was it the result of the new exchange of experiences and ideas between the East and the West?

The Balkan countries, now under Soviet Russia's rule, have a long tradition of agrarian revolution. The socialist movement of Western Europe during the last century has failed to find a democratic solution for that revolution. In his interesting book "Marx against the Peasants," David Mitrany has collected considerable material on the discussions about the agrarian question in the socialist movement.

According to Mitrany, it was the sway of Marxian thought in the Socialist Movement that led to the "unnatural conflict between Socialists and peasants." It seems to me that the predominance of Marxian thought at that time was but the result of the actual situation.

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The limelight of history was turned on the Industrial Revolution with its tremendous new

vistas of the final abolition of poverty. The world saw the emergence of the proletariat with its heroic struggle for human dignity, freedom and peace. Marxian theory announced the "century of the proletariat" to the neglect of the peasant.

The road towards socialism is not an easy one. It has its proud victories, its bitter defeats; it has its achievements and its errors and mistakes of which the neglect of the peasants was but one.

We have paid dearly for this mistake. Hitler might never have achieved power without the unanimous support of the "Green Front" of the German peasants and farmers. Moreover, the Western socialist movement might never have lost its attraction for the Balkan countries if it had fully understood the predominantly agrarian character of the Russian Revolution, or had raised its voice early enough in protest against the utter betrayal of the Russian peasants by Stalinism in the name of the socialist dictatorship of the proletariat.

No one has expressed this more clearly than did the British Socialist R.H.S. Crossman when he wrote:

"To the Balkan peoples the indissoluble connection between national unity, individual liberty and peasant proprietorship seemed as self-evident as it did to Tom Paine; to western industrial workers it had no sort of significance; to the Communists it was an outworn ideology which must be ruthlessly crushed."

Today, when Tito abandons collectivization, when he establishes peasants councils, he follows the tradition of the Populist and cooperative socialist movement of the Balkan countries. Should he succeed in making the peasant proprietors the natural friend of the socialist workers then his policy will strengthen the resistance of the Balkan countries against the oppression of the Soviet regime.

By MEYER MILLER

About 50 Spanish Socialists have been imprisoned so far in the current repressive drive conducted by the Franco regime, according to information reaching the Spanish Socialist Party in Exile (PSOE). Socialists and trade unionists in Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao were caught in the latest wave of persecution, and additional arrests are reported daily. One of the prisoners died in jail as a result of the tortures inflicted on him.

Acting on an appeal from Rudolfo Llopis, general secretary of the PSOE, the Socialist International sent a strong protest to the fascist dictator, and demanded that he "secure treatment of the arrested in accordance with the rules of human rights and a public trial for the defendants."

In a recent message to the American Committee to Aid Franco's Labor Victims, the Spanish Socialist Party stressed that the American "politics of complacency" toward Franco helps prop up his tyranny "which was weak and shaky before Admiral Sherman began discussions . . . concerning an exchange of economic aid for military bases." This policy will only serve to strengthen Communism within Spain, the PSOE warned.

Outside of the Communist parties themselves, perhaps the hardest hit by the Kremlin's intensified anti-Semitic line was Israel's Mapam Party, which

Socialist World

Franco Terrorism Hits Socialists

prior to the Prague trial had been slipping deeper and faster into a completely Cominformized mold.

However, the Prague travesty and the subsequent accusations against a number of Jewish doctors in Russia brought matters to a head in Mapam. On the one hand, the least Stalinized faction — L'Achdut H'Avodah — together with the small Left Poale Zion was galvanized into action against both the Kremlin and the extreme pro-Cominform group in Mapam led by Dr. Moshe Sneh. At the same time, Sneh, who seems determined to demonstrate he is a more servile Stalinist than the official Stalinists, felt compelled to go all-out in defense of the Prague purges.

The large Hashomer Hatzair group, which previously worked closely with Sneh, was quite taken aback by the Kremlin's anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist attack, but was rather reluctant to be as sharply critical as L'Achdut H'Avodah insisted.

But as the issues narrowed down, Hashomer finally sided with L'Achdut H'Avodah, and at a special party conference delegates voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution which unequivocally condemned the Prague proceedings. Reaffirmed

the party's association with the organized Zionist movement, and called for removal of Sneh and his supporters from all leading party posts.

Sneh, far from being on the defensive, asserted that the Prague events marked a "victory for socialism and peace" (!) and organized a new pro-Communist faction. When Sneh indicated he would not go along with the party's decisions, the Mapam national council, at the end of January, voted 222 to 21 to expel him and his cohorts.

Immediately afterward, Sneh announced the formation of a new party, the so-called "Socialist Workers Party," whose policies are indistinguishable from the official Communists. In fact, it is expected that he'll merge with the CP before long. (By the way, of Israel's 400 kibbutzim [collective settlements] only one so far has joined Sneh.)

While the exit of the Sneh elements from Mapam helped clear the air in that organization somewhat, it is still far from being a democratic Socialist group. In fact, all the remaining factions still insist on the necessity of maintaining the party's identification with "the revolutionary socialist world" by which they mean international Communism. They continue to approve and defend Moscow's

basic policies — except for what they term the Soviet's "misunderstanding of Zionism."

However, there has been something of a shift: Prior to Russia's anti-Jewish blasts, Mapam secretary Rittin (since ousted from his position) had declared that "We shall never fight against any attempt to invade our country."

Meanwhile, the Social Democratic labor party, Mapai, which is free from the internal dissension afflicting Mapam, mapped plans to streamline the activities of its 130,000 dues-paying members, at a four-day meeting of its national council last week. On the agenda was discussion of a vigorous program to combat Communists and other pro-Soviet elements. Priority attention also was given to means for coping with rising unemployment in the country.

A Socialist delegation from Burma, which visited Israel recently, came away with a strong feeling of friendship. Kyaw Nyein, Burmese Minister for Cooperatives and secretary-general of the dominant Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League, declared that the same ideals motivated the workers of Israel and of Burma in their Socialist and trade union activities. Reuven

Berkoff, head of the Histadrut International Relations Department, told the guests that "We look forward to the development of friendly relations and mutual help between us and all the countries of Asia in the interests of socialism and the cause of peace."

The Burmese Socialists were greatly impressed with the cooperative enterprises and villages, and with the many accomplishments of Histadrut. They also had an opportunity to learn about Arab trade union activity in the country. In addition to Kyaw Nyein, the delegation consisted of Thakin Chit Maung, Parliamentary Secretary of Defense, and Sin Wein, a trade union leader.

A strong condemnation of Communist anti-Semitism was voiced by the Bureau of the International Union of Socialist Youth, speaking for a half-million young Socialists throughout the world. "The IUSY views with the greatest alarm this recent evidence that Communism, in order to fulfill its aims, does not hesitate to use the most despicable means — persecution and oppression of a minority group which in the past has suffered enormously at the hands of tyranny," the Bureau's statement declared.

The IUSY appealed to the United Nations to take immediate action to uphold its Declaration of Human Rights and to "bring this deplorable situation to an end."

The SOCIALIST CALL

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Readers Write

On Competition

To the Editor:

George Holcomb's article in the March 6, 1953 CALL was conspicuous for its notable absence of positive proposals. The problem of controlling nationalized industry is of utmost importance—we've recognized this for some time now—but a reversion to more free enterprise or competition is certainly not what I hope Holcomb seriously proposes. The failure of certain forms of nationalized industry by no means implies the success of private enterprise and competition.

The tendency in industrial organization in an advanced technology—and this is a constant factor under any economy—is towards standardization and mass, impersonal production. The British Labor Party is very conscious of the fact that work in a nationalized plant is more meaningful only in an abstract sense, and that it is the fruits of industry and not industry per se that can make for a fuller life for individuals.

Under these circumstances it is therefore largely meaningless to talk in terms of competition in industries, and that the best economy "is one which promotes as much competition as possible." This last proposition, carried to its logical end, is in reality a plea for continual struggle within the social structure, the fruits of which can hardly be said to be beneficial to mankind as a whole.

Holcomb believes very erroneously that capitalism and competition are at least useful in raising production. The fact is, however, that production in any capitalist economy has never been at the level of 100% of capacity because of the basic inability to raise levels of consumption to an equal degree. America today uses only about 80% of its industrial machine. The difference represents pure waste. Labor England, despite many mistakes, managed to raise yearly production rates to unprecedented heights in nationalized industries, raise productivity at the same pace, and cheapen organizational costs at almost every turn.

There is no use bemoaning the point that industry is going to become more and more centralized and less competitive no matter who controls it. The key is who will control it, and whether or not the industrial machine will be responsive to democratic

forces or a relatively few magnates. It would be foolish to say that nationalization is the answer to all ills, but it would be equally foolish to try to turn the industrial process back to the early 19th century, and in the process lose the huge potential benefits of today's technical knowledge. Nationalization is potentially totalitarian, but it is also potentially democratic. Business control presents no such alternate.

A case for countervailing or balancing forces within a whole social structure can be made, but it cannot be made for an industrial and machine order. A consideration of the first proposition would probably be a considerably more fruitful.

GABY KOLKO
Akron, Ohio

Saratog's Dilemma

To the Editor:

The article by Comrade Saratog on "The Dilemma of Italy's Democratic Socialists" reminds one of similar articles written by German Social Democrats, vintage of 1920-1933. The rationalization for the support of De Gasperi is in actuality acceptance of the old "lesser of two evils" formula that went "kaput" with the advent of Hitler.

To advocate coalition with the Italian Premier will never win mass support to Saratog's Party nor will it detract support from Nenni and Togliatti. Saratog, in glossing over the electoral law, is committing a blunder that will harm not only Italy's socialists but Socialism elsewhere in Europe.

De Gasperi, for the moment, will welcome the support of people of good will. The election law that Comrade Saratog endorses gives De Gasperi the weapon to cut off the Democratic Socialists and the Liberals once he has won the election.

Under the new law the winning coalition receiving at least 50.1% of the vote will be entitled to 65% of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies. That the Christian-Democrats will profit from this is a foregone conclusion. The program, leadership, and philosophy of the Christian-Democrats makes it inevitable that Italy will have less democracy once they can govern without the support of minority parties.

When one reads Saratog's article it becomes obvious why Nenni still has a tremendous following. Nenni and his Stalinist

Books In Review

Stalin's Un-Marxian Legacy

STALIN VERSUS MARX. By Klaus Mehner. Allen & Unwin.

REVIEWED BY ERNEST UNTERMANN

The author traces the retreat of Stalin from Marxism toward Russian nationalism and imperialism by public statements of the dictator, and by official communist party announcements and articles.

By carefully documented facts, Mehner follows the public dethronement of the formerly highly admired Russian historians who faithfully adhered to the old Marxian historical materialism, and the elevation to party endorsement of new historians who have dropped the Marxian method and specialize in glorifying Russia as a self dependent nation which never borrowed anything from the effete West.

Of course, Lenin and Trotsky borrowed generously from Marx and Engels, and so did Stalin before he began to see that Marxism is inapplicable to Russia's communist revolution. Then Stalin became the great revisionist, who explained to his followers that the old Marxian idea of the mental superstructure of economies being a purely secondary phenomenon is wrong in Russia, because the mental superstructure of communism is supreme over the economic basis and changes it to suit Stalin's diplomacy.

Thus Stalin groomed himself for the role of national Russian hero. Marxism is relative, said he. The idea of an explosive revolution must be taken with due regard for historical facts.

cohort can only be defeated by a Socialist Party with a forthright unequivocal program for workers' rights, democracy, and socialism.

HENRY MERRITT
New York, N.Y.

In Russia the explosive revolution is followed by little gradual jumps which change the old economy by definite quantitative steps into the communist quality.

The Stalinist state cannot wither away until communism has been irrevocably established. The Stalinist state is the communist party, backed by the secret police and the armed forces. It will decide when it is time to change the dictatorship into a democratic system.

BUILDING A LANGUAGE

For the present one of the most important tasks of the communist party is to build up a standardized Russian language which shall eventually become THE world language. This language must be taught in all countries under Stalinist control, and its use must be extended in proportion as Stalinism puts more nations under its sway. This will inevitably come about, because the trend of social evolution everywhere is towards communism.

The Russians are the new Chosen People, who will dominate and amalgamate all other nations and races. There will be no new revolutionary explosions in Russia after Stalinism. Fanaticism is the new communist religion, and it will develop into a world ruler. Religion is the opium of the people only in the war-mongering capitalist democracies. In communist Russia it is beneficial so long as it supports Stalinism.

According to Marx, the proletarians have no fatherland, but there are no proletarians in Russia, only patriotic supporters of the Stalinist party. Anybody who calls the chains of Russian labor camps galling is a cosmopolitan bourgeois and gets a katanga to Siberia, for his own good, of course.

As Marx said about the Roman historian Tacitus: "Even the transformation of a whole nation into a compost heap offers material for self-edifying patriotism."

Readers of the CALL are cordially invited to attend the 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the LEAGUE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

to be held in the

Hotel Commodore, New York City

Friday and Saturday, April 10-11, 1953

Subject: THE CRISIS IN AMERICAN AND WORLD RESOURCES

Speakers:

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT - OSCAR L. CHAPMAN - ADOLPH HELD
PREMIER T. C. DOUGLAS - PAUL R. PORTER
NATHANIEL M. MINKOFF, Chairman

Citations to:

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT OSCAR L. CHAPMAN
THOMAS C. DOUGLAS former Secretary of Interior
Premier of Saskatchewan John Dewey Awards to L.I.D. Alumni
PAUL R. PORTER CLARENCE SENIOR

Luncheon Tickets, \$5.00

Friday night, April 11, 8 P.M.

Subject: THE CRISIS IN OUR LAND AND FOREST RESOURCES.

Participants: William Vogt, Charles Abrams, Philip H. Coombs, Nathaniel Goldfinger, Jerry Breslaw, Norman Thomas, Chairman.

Saturday morning, April 11, 10 to 12:15 noon

Subject: THE BATTLE FOR THE CONTROL OF OUR OIL, POWER, WATER AND ATOMIC RESOURCES.

Participants: Oscar L. Chapman, Premier T. C. Douglas, John Bauer, Maurice P. Davidson, Leland Olds, Chairman.

Saturday afternoon, April 11, 3:30 to 5:00 P.M.

Subject: A PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD RESOURCES

Participants: Ambassador Victor Andrade of Bolivia, Robert Delson, Paul R. Porter, Ambassador James Barrington of Burma, Boris Shishkin, Clarence Senior, Chairman.

Admission to Round Tables, 50 cents each

Combined Luncheon Ticket and Admission to 3 Round Tables, \$6.00

Luncheon Speeches at 1:30 P.M. following Luncheon, \$1.00

Write for tickets and complete program to Dr. Harry W. Laidler, Conference Chairman League for Industrial Democracy 112 East 19th Street, New York 3, N.Y. or phone ALgonquin 4-5865

"A nation whose national resources are destroyed must inevitably pay the penalty of poverty, degradation, and decay."

Calling The Shots

The Resistance

By HERMAN SINGER

The death of Stalin has brought some surprises, but one of the minor unexpected diversions was the doleful reaction of "high level" authorities in Washington and London. According to think pieces issuing from these capitals, unnamed authorities in close touch with important personages at the State Department and Downing Street were concerned about the fact that the death of Stalin might have repercussions disturbing to the status quo. According to these analysts, Stalin was a restraining influence in the Politburo, and it was the late dictator who had prevented Kremlin hotheads from undertaking an immediate assault on countries neighboring the USSR, or even on the United States. Stalin having moved on to his reward, the Kremlin was now without his conservative influence, and the cause of peace, of which Stalin was so persuasive an example, was threatened. Moreover, according to these pundits, while Stalin was a problem, he was quite adequately understood by Western diplomats, who were now faced with coping with an unprecedented situation—the Soviet Union without Stalin.

Like most of the theories which have been advanced since Stalin's death, this thesis has a certain value, but its significance would seem to be somewhat less than overwhelming, even from the standpoint of foreign policy. For, if Stalin was hesitant to risk an all-out war, the prospect cannot be particularly enticing, at this stage, to the new rulers of the Soviet Union, who are insecure in their jobs, and whose support among the mass of people is, to put it mildly, problematical. Even plunging into a war as a means of consolidating power for one or another group in the Kremlin might mean the possibility of Soviet collapse through mass disaffection.

It is here, of course, that the impact of Stalin's death takes on significance. As many observers have pointed out, Stalin represented in his own person the greatest concentration of power of modern times. It would be impossible for any person to inherit such power intact, particularly since it represented an accumulation of responsibility gathered over more than a quarter of a century.

In such a situation, there must be, in the early months after Stalin's death, a diffusion of power, with the heirs apparent jealously seeking as much of it as possible to hold against their rivals. It is difficult to see how such a diffusion of power can be easily recovered once it has gotten out of the hands of one man. Having been released, it can spread to the lower echelons, and then into the mass organizations as well. At the moment there may be a testing of authority in the factories, the collectives and in the army.

The withdrawal of a dictatorial grip, even temporarily, in a totalitarian state can have major repercussions. And, in view of the fact that the chain of command from the Kremlin down is now insecure, bureaucrats and managers have no clear directives, or even incentives, for handling such silent sabotage. This form of resistance will probably increase in the satellite countries, where nationalistic considerations could unite workers and CP straw bosses against the Kremlin. In Czechoslovakia, so shaky was the top command that, five days after the death of President Gottwald of the "Moscow chill," no successor had been announced.

That the new Kremlin rulers are fearful of the reaction of the Russian people is seen in their frenzied calls for vigilance, for unity, and for the destruction of "spies in our midst." It is possible that the shooting down of American and British planes in Germany last week may have been an attempt by the Kremlin to test Soviet reaction to the possibility of a shooting war, or to frighten the populace into thinking one was inevitable. Yet, this test was followed by a Malenkov statement before the Supreme Soviet, in which the new Premier said, "troublesome and unsolved questions may be resolved by peaceful negotiations."

These hot and cold statements indicate that the Kremlin masters are probably the least secure of any rulers in the world, as well as being the most uncertain as to the actions of their people. This is the condition which has been brought about by the death of Stalin.

It would be difficult to find a more serious indictment of the official Washington outlook than that it finds in the death of the Soviet dictator only the possibility that the status quo may be ruffled.

Reading Socialists Issue Challenge To Private Enterprise Propagandists

Americans For The Competitive Enterprise System, Inc. came to Berks County last week with proper publicity and fanfare.

They even rounded up the proper names in the community. Members of the local committee are Dr. Harry V. Masters, chairman; Mrs. Paul C. Craig, vice chairman; Robert O. Cotton, representing the Junior Chamber of Commerce, secretary; John D. Heckman, president of City Bank and Trust Company, treasurer; Robert E. Kerper, Jr., executive director; Daniel F. Ancona, Ralph C. Body, Dr. Matthew J. Boland, representing the Berks County Medical Society; Ellis Brodstein, G. Clymer Brooke; Dr. Thomas H. Ford, representing city schools; Newton W. Geiss, representing county schools; Herbert S. Jones, Andrew Kachele, representing the life underwriters; Frederick H. Klein, Sidney D. Kline, Dr. John E. Livingood, John S. Saylor, Jr., and Dr. H. K. Willits, representing Berks County Dental Society.

Organized workers, who have reason to be suspicious of "free enterprise" peddlers, and who have been seeking their political salvation in the Democratic Party, were shocked to discover the name of Ralph C. Body, former county chairman of the Democratic Party among the sponsors.

Socialists who smiled wryly when they considered the outcry

that would be raised in the community had the above named educators lent their names to a "socialist" front organization, challenged ACES, as the organization is known, to debate the "collectivism" issue.

In opening its office at 526 Washington Street in Reading ACES announced that its objective is to demonstrate the superiority of the American competitive system over any form of collectivism including communism, fascism and socialism.

To accomplish this end, ACES will maintain a speakers bureau, conduct school programs for students and teachers, conduct seminars for clergymen, run a program for employees and distribute literature.

SHOW UP OR SHUT UP

In a letter signed jointly by Darlington Hoopes, National Chairman of the Socialist Party, and by Ellwood R. Keppley, County Chairman of Local Berks, they challenged ACES to unlimited debate.

"As both you and your local members must know, a great many citizens of Berks County have, in the past, and do now, consider themselves "socialists" and the people of this community on at least two occasions have elected members of the Socialist Party to municipal administrations.

"It is because of this unusual situation in Reading and Berks County that both your organization and ours has a unique opportunity to present two divergent points of view to rather large audiences. We presume

that when you "demonstrate" and mention, teachers, students, clergymen, etc., that you are absolutely sure of your premise and that you would have no objection to a debate or panel discussion in which the citizens of our community would have an opportunity for an objective study of "collectivism."

"May we offer ourselves as speakers to debate, or to participate in panel discussion with any of your members that you may select, at any time or place and before any audience that you may designate?

"Perhaps we might co-operatively sponsor a public meeting at say, the Women's Club, charge admission, and donate the proceeds to a worthy charity such as the Red Cross or the Community Chest? In view of the controversial nature of such a debate a fairly large meeting would be assured."

Labor Theatre Will Present 'Skin Of Teeth'

Performances of Thornton Wilder's play, "The Skin of Our Teeth," will be given Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, by the Labor Theatre.

The cast is composed entirely of members of trade unions, who have been rehearsing under the direction of Vivian Leopold.

Tickets at \$1.00, which must be purchased in advance, can be obtained at the Rand School, 7 East 15 Street, New York City.

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Local New York Membership Convention

(continuation session)
Tuesday, March 24
8 P.M.

at the
Rand School
7 E. 15 St., N.Y.C.

HEAR Norman Thomas on

"Author Meets The Critics"

Thursday, April 9
Channel 5 10 P.M.

"Momma Won't Leave You!"



NEC Endorses Plan For Joint SP-SDF Convention In June

Unity of democratic socialist organizations in the United States moved nearer to action than at any time since 1949 as the result of the recent meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, Meeting in Detroit, Michigan on March 7-8, the NEC endorsed the proposal made at the last unity negotiations committee by Louis P. Goldberg of the SDF for a joint convention in June to decide all outstanding issues among the organizations.

Organizations represented at the negotiations meeting, which was called by the Party after conversations initiated by the SDF, included the Socialist Democratic Federation and Jewish Socialist Verband, the Jewish Labor Bund, and the Socialist Party. An invitation to unaffiliated democratic socialist groups is expected as soon as the initial unity is achieved. In 1949 the Socialist Party had voted overwhelmingly in membership referendum for a joint convention to establish unity, but the SDF referendum, although favorable, was so close that further progress was not possible.

In order to comply with constitutional requirements for a legal Party convention, the national secretary was instructed by the NEC to prepare a membership apportionment of delegates and submit it to the NEC. This must be done ninety days before a convention; a special convention may be called by a majority vote of the National Executive Committee.

Provided that joint negotiations continue to proceed favorably, a special meeting of the NEC will be called this spring to complete necessary arrangements for the Party.

TO PROTECT RESOURCES

The NEC called for a major campaign by the Party for protection of the public domain and natural resources of the United States against depredation of private interests with the encouragement of the Eisenhower Administration.

The turning over of offshore oil resources to the states, whose legislatures are more subject to control by private interests than Congress, will destroy a major asset that belongs to all the people, the NEC warned.

The attacks on public power and refusal to move ahead on needed valley authorities open the way for further destructive floods and irreparable loss of top soil, as well as depriving the people of all the benefits that cheap power resources can make available. These are only first straws in the wind which will, unless stopped, ruin the natural wealth of this country which is its greatest strength.

While the American people are excited to hysteria by the irresponsible McCarthy cry of "communism," they miss two very real dangers—one to civil liberties and the preservation of American democracy; the other the predatory private interests that would rob the nation of its heritage. The "big lie" is serving the reactionaries as a useful camouflage for the big steal.

Present at the regular quarterly meeting of the NEC were Darlington Hoopes, national chairman; Robin Myers, national secretary; Norman Thomas, Samuel H. Friedman, Mark Brown, Hans Peters, Caleb Smith, Jerry Raymond, Tad Tekla, and for the Young Socialists, Dick Fredrickson.

Next Issue Of CALL To Appear April 10

The next two issues of the SOCIALIST CALL will appear at three week intervals, rather than bi-weekly, in order to make possible the preparation of the special May Day issue containing messages from socialist and labor groups throughout the world, and greetings from labor and fraternal groups and individuals in the United States.

The next issue of the CALL will appear April 10, and the following issue will be dated—naturally—May 1.

NEW YORK

The city membership convention, which began on March 13 and 14 will be continued at a Tuesday evening session on March 24 at the Rand School.

The annual May Day dinner will be held this year at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Friday, May 1. Reservations at \$4 should be made now through the city office, 303 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, CR 5-6621.

Regular forums are held by the Queens Branch on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Gottlieb, 52-02 94th Street, Elmhurst. On March 18, Robert Koepficus led a discussion on "The Plight of the Cities of America."

The Parkway Community Forum will present a symposium, "Where is Civilization Drifting?" on April 1 at 8:15 p.m. at P.S. 167, Eastern Parkway and Schenectady. Rev. L. W. Fifield, Eric Hass, and David P. Berenberg will speak.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia. A series of discussions, Socialist Round Table "Our World Today" has been instituted. Information can be secured from Barbara Graymount, state secretary, 759 N. 26th St., Philadelphia.

Local Berks. Alfred E. Eckenrode and Walter Hollinger were nominated as Socialist candidates for City Council.

The Prison Reformers

(Continued from Page 2)

appeared in the CALL, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12.

The Parti Socialiste ELD of Greece wrote: "Neither our Party nor members of it have made any contribution towards prison reform in our country. This question has since many years been put before Parliament and public opinion and some improvement is already scored. Of course we are deeply interested in that question, but the main issue, we are concerned with, is still how to obtain a discharge, if possible, of our prisoners of the large number of political convicts and detained people."

And from the Partij van de Arbeid of the Netherlands: "The Socialist Party has never occupied itself with prison reform. Some comrades are studying in party committees problems of penitentiary right in general and after-care of prisoners. A new

bill and will head the Party ticket in this year's elections. Robert G. Aulench heads the county ticket as candidate for prothonotary. Candidates for school board include William H. Prutzman for the four-year term, and Helen T. Keppley, Stephen M. Lewicki and Joseph J. Swartz for six-year terms. Clarence Prutzman, Jr., will run for July Commissioner, and Clayton Mengel and William Monyer for Prison Inspectors.

WASHINGTON

A new issue of the Washington State Socialist has been issued and may be secured from 712 University Bldg., Seattle 1.

WISCONSIN

Information concerning the Socialist Party can be secured from the Party office, 536 West Juneau, Milwaukee.

Act has not yet been put into operation. The principal lines of this new Act are based on the suggestions of the "Commission Internationale Penale et Penitentiaire," which committee has existed already 75 years and in the meantime has become part of the U.N. now."

But, on the brighter side, the Independent Union of Socialist Youth has begun a study of juvenile delinquency, which is, per se, a related problem.

Young Socialist Convention To Meet In Reading, April 11

The 19th National Convention of the Young Socialists has been scheduled for the week-end of April 11-12th in Reading, Pennsylvania. The Convention will take place in the Labor Lyceum at 628 Walnut Street, Reading, Penna. The sessions begin on Saturday at 10 a.m.

The Socialist Party will be represented by Darlington Hoopes, national chairman.

A Convention Journal will be issued and sent to all comrades and friends who send greetings. The journal will contain the complete proceedings and resolutions of the Convention. Greetings are: full page, \$20; half page, \$10; quarter page, \$5; single line \$2, and can be sent to the Y.S., 303 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

LIFE OF THE PARTY

Copies of the second (March) issue of Hammer and Tongs are still available to members at 15c each from the National Office. Material for the third issue should reach the office not later than April 13.

ALASKA

Information concerning the Socialist Party in Alaska can be secured from the Socialist Party, P.O. Box 883, Fairbanks, Alaska.

CALIFORNIA

East Bay. Information concerning socialist activities may be secured from 2412 Haste St., Berkeley. Educational meetings are held at that address every Monday evening at 8:30 p.m.

Los Angeles. A new executive committee for the Local was elected on February 21. It includes: Hazel Eitman, Charles Curtis, Sam Oshry, Vern Blatt, Vern Davidson, William Goldman, Saury Buell, members, and Joseph Sugar alternate.

A social for the benefit of the Party's campaign for board of education in the city election was held on March 15. Vern Davidson is the Party's candidate for office. Information about Party activities may be secured from the office at 1904 South Arlington.

San Francisco. The Local has instituted a series of monthly forums that will be held at the Workmen's Center, 1057 Market Street, corner of the Golden Gate. On March 27 the topic will be "Socialism and Socialism" and Muriel Goldman will speak. Discussion will be held on the book, "The Second Sex" by Simone de Beauvoir, on April 24.

Alfred G. Fisk, Professor of Philosophy at San Francisco State College, who has recently returned from six months in India, will speak "About India." On May 22, Durward T. DuRant will review "Capitalism and Socialism on Trial" by Fritz Sternberg.

COLORADO

Information concerning activities in Colorado can be secured from the state secretary, Ailene Whitehead, P.O. Box 775, Denver. A Socialist Seminar analyzing current problems is held monthly.

A membership meeting will be held on March 24 at the home of Sig and Frances Goodman, 3445 Shoshone St., Denver.

INDIANA

Information concerning activities in Indiana can be secured from Lawrence Brayton, state secretary, P.O. Box 1004, Fort Wayne.

MASSACHUSETTS

Information concerning activities in Massachusetts can be secured from Julius Bernstein, state secretary, 11 Rocky Nook Terrace, Jamaica Plain 50, Mass.

Local Boston has initiated a new series of Socialist Forums which will be held every Wednesday evening at 8:30 p.m. at 70 Charles St. (corner of Mt. Vernon, two blocks from Boston Common). On March 25, Richard Horan will lead a discussion on "Why Class Conflict?" and on April 1 a business meeting will be held at 62 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, the Workmen's Circle Center.

Peace? Freedom? Socialism? YES!

In Asia, as in Europe, movements inspired by socialist ideals are on the march.

In the United States, official spokesmen, abetted by the vast majority of newspapers and magazines, deliberately distort the meaning of socialism to condemn every bit of progressive legislation, past or future.

The SOCIALIST CALL is foremost in fighting reaction at home, and in bringing Americans news of the socialist movement abroad.

Your greeting to democratic socialists everywhere should appear in our special 1953 MAY DAY issue of the SOCIALIST CALL. As a 1953 feature, every greeting of \$5.00 or more entitles you to be a donor of a one year subscription to a friend, fellow-worker, union or public library, or fraternal organization.

LET'S HAVE YOUR GREETING NOW! Deadline April 20!

The SOCIALIST CALL - 303 Fourth Avenue - New York 10, N.Y.

Enclosed please find \$.... to cover cost of my MAY DAY CALL greeting. (\$5.00 a column inch; \$75 a quarter page; \$135 a half page; \$250 a full page.)

☐ Copy is enclosed

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As I See It

Private Interests Ride High

by Norman Thomas

For the sake of socialist education and for the good of our country, socialists, yes, and honest progressives, should themselves notice and call to the attention of their fellow citizens, the significance of certain actions or proposals by leading Republicans.

1—President Eisenhower appointed as housing administrator former Rep. Cole of Kansas, whose legislative record was one of opposition to public housing. Now Eisenhower and the Republican leaders have begun to force out officials, nominally protected by Civil Service, if those officials can in any way be said to be policy making. Perhaps that is their right. But the rest of us ought to realize what it means when Claude Wicker, head of the Rural Electrification Administration, was forced to resign.

It doesn't just mean that Republicans want one more job for a good Republican. It means that they want to put in a man who will sabotage one of the best achievements of the New Deal, namely REA. This is part of the policy of building up private interests at the expense of the people.

2—Senator Taft out-McCarthy'd McCarthy by demanding a complete housecleaning of the Voice of America on the ground that it is infested with fellow travelers. I imagine that I have seen at least as many of the Voice's scripts as Senator Taft. I used the information very effectively on two trips to Asia in discussing communist crimes against liberty. There was no sign of fellow traveling in them.

Neither is there any sign that McCarthy or Taft wants a fair investigation of the Voice. Fair investigation would depend upon spot checks of scripts and reports of reception in foreign lands. Instead of which we get hit and run attacks on various individuals.

If there has been waste in construction of facilities, McCarthy will do a public service by establishing that fact. But so far he has allowed only one side of that story to be published. The method of the investigation,

like the method of the educational investigation, is wrong. It is peculiarly hurtful to American interests at this juncture that the Voice of America should be virtually silenced or discredited by these partisan right wing Republican attacks.

3—Senator Knowland of California, a very influential Republican, has demanded among other things that the Kremlin should be denounced in and by the UN as an aggressor in Korea. Such a denunciation would be morally just. But an American effort to get formal action by the UN would be dangerously unwise. It might even make war likely.

On the contrary this is a time for Eisenhower to propose consultation in line with Malenkov's alleged repeated statement that he wants it. But Eisenhower should be precise on the subjects of consultation. By no means should he, Churchill, and Malenkov talk about a division of the world in spheres of influence or something of that sort. It's a division which wouldn't last and could be wrong in itself.

President Eisenhower should propose that discussions should have to do with ending the Korean war, without sending back unwilling prisoners to slavery or death, and with universal, fool-proof disarmament under a strengthened UN. Such disarmament is essential to any really good solution of the problem of Germany or Japan.

Eisenhower might go before the UN and make the kind of appeal on this issue which would be in effect compel Malenkov to put up or shut up, and recover for the US an initiative in the minds of the people of the world as the friend of peace.

There is nothing in this proposal inconsistent with the firm line against such outrages as the shooting down of the British and American planes over Germany. But a "firm" line at this point must be supplemented by constructive proposals, looking toward peace. Our government hasn't an indefinite time in which to act.

Labor, Liberal Groups Unite For Educational TV In New York State

The majority report of the New York Temporary State Commission on the Use of Television for Educational Purposes has just been released. As all these reports do, it recognizes the value of educational TV but rejects the plan to build State-owned and operated stations to take advantage of the ten ultra-high-frequency channels allocated by the FCC to New York.

This means that only alert action by public-spirited groups can save educational TV in New York.

Louis Hollander, president of the State CIO bitterly assailed the majority report, calling it a "deliberate fraud." The findings, he said, are "out of the same cloth as arguments put forth more than a century ago by opponents of free public schools."

Public pressure from the Board of Regents and other educational groups to reject the Dewey-dictated report will probably increase now that a New Jersey Commission has reported favorably.

Most of the plans, including those of the minority members of the commission, call for the building of an experimental station at the cost of \$500,000, equivalent to the cost of one half mile of county road.

Unions particularly should call for the utilization of all 10 channels and not just a few. As Hollander points out, it is now or never. The channels appropriated by the FCC—only 10 out of 242 nationally—will be released to the commercial broadcasters unless public opinion can force Governor Dewey to reconsider.

The report attempts to overawe its readers by describing the heavy costs of building, operating and maintaining a TV network. Furthermore, it adds, the schools will have to be equipped with TV sets. Proceeding with its argument, it maintains that public interest in educational programs on commercial television is negligible which, in view of its virtual non-existence on TV, is a complete non-sequitur.

As matters now stand, most sets do not have provisions for ultra-high-frequency reception but only for the regular very-high-frequency. Why bother, says the committee, building

something no one will be able to listen to even if he wanted to do so?

The commission arbitrarily assumes that programming must be so limited in scope that all the time and talent will have to be provided by the already harnessed educational staffs of the state. When questioned, the school authorities testified that they did not have the means to cope with existing problems. With this restricted view of programming, the commission can very well accept the testimony of the commercial broadcasters at face value. Their claim is that not only do the existing stations offer school boards time for educational purposes but that more time is offered than the schools can make use of.

EDUCATORS IN FAVOR

It is interesting to note that of the five members of the commission—who comprised the minority, three have connections with educational institutions. John P. Myers is Chancellor of the Board of Regents, Mrs. Isabel H. Kideny is the former president of the state chapter of the American Association of University Women, and Norman S. Goetz represented the trustees of the State University.

Instead of this negative attitude, the commission might have envisioned an adequate staff trained to handle the special problems of the medium, and excited by the opportunity of offering the public mature presentations in the cultural and educational fields. A staff such as this could experiment with TV in the same spirit that the British have used on their third program in radio.

HEART OF THE MATTER

Section 8 of the report gets to the heart of the majority Republican viewpoint. It says it is "not the function of the state to duplicate these programs (news and current events on commercial stations) or to compete with private enterprise in this area." The real fear of the commercial broadcasters is that the public may very well enjoy better quality programs unencumbered by continual advertising. Private enterprise doesn't want any dent in this lucrative practice.

"The Voice of America?"



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